Agreement on the Indo-Soviet Housing Project

1299. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an agreement has been signed by India and USSR to launch an Indo-Soviet Mass Housing Project in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Flow of Technology from Laboratories to Fields

1300. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new programme for better flow of technology from laboratories to fields; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To transfer the technologies, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has been running for extension programmes *viz* (i) National Demonstrations Project, (ii) Operational Research Project, (iii) Krishi Vigyan Kendra and (iv) Lab-to-Land Programme. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has now formulated two new projects to be taken up during the 7th Five Year Plan period.

1. **Land-to-Lab. Project**

This project has been designed to improve the feedback mechanism from land to laboratories by using the experiences of the progressive farmers and rural development workers working in voluntary organisations who have first hand knowledge of the problems of the farming community. Through this project, it is intended that such selected experienced people could be invited to interact with the scientists of the Research Institutes and the Agriculture Universities in seminars organised specially for this purpose. During this period, besides giving feedback to the scientists, the progressive farmers and the extension workers would also benefit by developing contacts with the scientists and by observing and studying the farms and laboratories of the Institutes/ Univesities.

2. **Roving Consultants/Advisers**

There are a number of Transfer of Technology Projects launched in the interest of rapid development of agriculture. In many cases the scientists in such projects are relatively young and require constant guidance and advice for developing into good professionals. It has been suggested that a few retired scientists who have a flair for rural development/agricultural extension would be selected by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for a short period to serve as Roving Consultants/ Advisors. They would be required to move from project to project and make in-depth studies of the working of the projects, make suggestions to the implementing scientists, give seminars to the workers if necessary, and submit a report to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Headquarters. For this purpose, he may stay at one project site for 10—15 days depending upon the need. This approach will have a positive effect on the working of the projects.

Absorption of surplus staff of DDA

1301. SHRI SYED AHMAD [illegible]: With the Minister of